

## Mayor's Column for May 6, 2004

Well, it may be a day late, but certainly not a dollar short. I am excited to talk with you this week about Public Safety on a beautiful Friday morning. That's right, my column is late but it was a busy day on Thursday, hopefully all will be forgiven.

You may or may not be aware that we recently finished up our Spring Cleanup 2004, a focus by the Police Department to clean up the streets of Troy from the criminal side of things. The results were great. Over the two week period, we:

- Identified and arrested 21 people for selling narcotics and lodged 28 felony, 100 misdemeanor and 88 violation charges against a total of 147 separate defendants. Police Chief Nick Kaiser has told me that some of the more serious charges stem from further investigation of minor violations such as Curfew and Loitering violations.
- Also, over 800 Uniform Traffic Tickets were issued during this operation. Of the other arrests, 13 defendants arrested for Open Container violations, 12 arrests for Driving While Intoxicated, six were arrested under the City's Curfew Ordinance, eleven were arrested for Unlawful Possession of Marijuana, 38 people were arrested for other misdemeanor and felony traffic offenses (primarily Aggravated Unlicensed Operation and DWI). There was also one prostitution arrest and three prostitution-related loitering arrests. Eight individuals were arrested for outstanding warrants.
- Finally, 28 individuals were arrested for various violations including noise ordinance, disorderly conduct, trespassing and one individual for Exposure of a Person (public urination).

These sweeps have been done in the past, but there is one difference this time around- a change in attitude. People on the streets are beginning to realize that we mean business. As I have said many times in the past few months, voluntary compliance is a word of the past. We have many laws that are in place in an effort to improve the quality of life for our residents. I am intent on letting people know that we will enforce these laws.

As if this news was not positive enough, due to the diligence and hard work of our officers, they nabbed the 16-year-old kid that was shooting out windows with a BB-gun. It may seem minor, but the lack of respect this young man had for the property of others is disconcerting, and I am happy the police caught him. I would also like to thank Councilman Jack Mahoney, for his efforts in catching the defendant, by posting a reward for \$250.

One final note is that past cleanups have also led to positive results as well, but were never followed up on by the previous administration. This is not a game. We didn't pull off a cleanup to make it *look* like we're doing something. We did it because it's the right thing to do. We'll continue to do it because it's the right thing to do.

As is the same every week, if you have any questions, comments, concerns, or complaints, do not hesitate to call me 270-4401 or e-mail the Mayors Office. There are many people following the latter option, and it may take a few days, but I will respond to everyone.

Harry J. Tutunjian  
Mayor of Troy